

FORUM

kirtlandcc.forum@kirtland.af.mil, 846-4240

Errant basketballs

The basketball court at the East side gym is directly in front of the center room where you have treadmills, exercise machines and other equipment. Quite frequently basketballs come bouncing in from the court and hit people that are running at full speed on the treadmill.

I have complained to the front desk. I told them, "You need to do something to prevent the ball from coming into the room." Today, the ball almost knocked my wife down, and she complained to the front desk. They said, "We don't know what to do."

Something needs to be done. Somebody is going to get hurt and then corrective action is going to be taken after the fact. Maybe by installing a swinging door or gate, about waist high, to keep the ball from coming in would help. People could just open it and walk in, but the ball won't come in and hurt somebody.

Thanks for your comments. We're always looking for ways to improve safety in the fitness center. Your concern is a valid one. As a result, the fitness center had Civil Engineers install doors on May 19 in the cardio rooms to protect patrons from errant basketballs. We hope you continue to enjoy our first-class fitness and sports center.

Full Famcamp

I visited Kirtland AFB recently and tried to use the base Famcamp. Another retiree told me that it was completely full and that the only spaces available were in overflow with no hookups. I was also told that civilian contractors occupied some full hookups.

Now, this is what I call a rip-off toward military retirees. Contractors get paid highly inflated prices for doing the contract work and should be made to use civilian RV parks, leaving the base Famcamp for military.

This is especially true today because of the number of military bases that have closed reducing the overall number of Famcamps.

I wanted to stay at the base Famcamp because I attended the Kirtland NCO Academy back in the mid-60's and looked forward to revisiting it and the base. Since we had to pay the high cost of a civilian RV park at a fair distance from Kirtland AFB, we did not get to enjoy our stay. Its time that all Famcamps be used strictly by military personnel.

We apologize that you were unable to obtain a full hook-up space during your visit to Kirtland AFB. You arrived when the full hook-up area was--well--full.



COL. HENRY L. ANDREWS, JR.  
377th Air Base Wing commander

The campground has 33 full hook-up areas and all were occupied with authorized users. The overflow area has 11 electricity-only sites and numerous dry campsites.

We gave one specific contractor special authorization to stay there to monitor trespassing in the adjacent family housing construction site. The construction site had previously been vandalized, and we were also concerned for the safety and security of our Family Campground customers and thought this was a prudent decision.

When your future travel plans include Kirtland AFB, please contact the Family Campground office at 846-0337.

Air Force people are the greatest

Air Force people are the greatest. Recently I was rescued from an ever embarrassing position by a kind gentleman.

I was in the express lane of the Commissary and was unable to locate my charge card. I finally searched everywhere. My bill was \$24.59. I only had \$22 in cash. Noticing my predicament the gentleman next in line said "I'll bail you out." He then proceeded to give me not only enough to pay my bill, but also a dollar for the bagger.

To say I was overwhelmed is an understatement. I thanked the gentleman, but I wish I had gotten his name and address so that I could reimburse him. I will, however, proceed doing his kindness if the occasion ever occurs.

This might have happened at an Albertsons, or Smiths, off base, but I doubt it. It did occur at Kirtland AFB.

Service before self is what America's Air Force is all about. We're proud to have been able to lend a hand.

Radio-controlled airplanes?

Are radio-controlled model airplanes allowed to be flown on Hardin Field? My office is near the parade grounds, and I was thinking of bringing my radio-controlled plane at lunchtime to fly it.

My plane is a powered glider and has an electric motor, as opposed to louder gas engines, and it flies very slowly. I saw some folks flying their radio-controlled airplanes on the parade grounds a few years ago at noontime, but I haven't seen such activities since.

Thank you for asking about flying radio-controlled model airplanes on base, a topic with clear safety implications. There is an established Radio Control Flying Club on Kirtland AFB that can tell you more about when and where you may fly your model. Please call the club's point of contact, Fred Kruezel, 298-6594.

You will also find a wealth of information on radio-control modeling through the Academy of Model Aeronautics Web site: [www.modelaircraft.org/](http://www.modelaircraft.org/). There you will find an application to thin the Academy of Model Aeronautics (required in order to fly your model with virtually any radio-control club in the nation) and a set of safety rules that apply to the sport. Joining the Academy of Model Aeronautics will also provide you with insurance in the event you lose control of your model and cause property damage or bodily injury to others.

Forum

We want your suggestions and comments concerning Kirtland AFB.

However, may we also suggest giving base agencies or the chain of command the chance to resolve your concern before calling Forum.

If you decide the Forum is the right answer, we don't print callers' names.

Customer service

- Chapel, 846-5691
- CE Help Desk, 846-8222
- Commissary, 846-9586
- Computer help, 846-5926
- Energy wasting, 846-4633
- Exchange Service, 266-9887
- Family Services, 846-0741
- Finance, 846-8045, 846-6639
- Law Enforcement, 846-7926
- Legal Services, 846-4217
- Medical Clinic, 846-3406
- Services Squadron, 846-1828

Write: 377 ABW/CC Forum  
2000 Wyoming SE  
Kirtland AFB, NM 87117



Col. Henry L. Andrews, Jr.  
377th Air Base Wing commander

Deborah Mercurio  
377th Air Base Wing  
Public Affairs director

Terry E. Walker  
Editor

Jennifer E. West  
Staff writer, 846-4235

Senior Airman  
Erin L. Smith  
Recreation editor  
846-4236

Nucleus is on the Web  
at [www.kirtland.af.mil](http://www.kirtland.af.mil)

E-mail articles only  
to 377ABW.NUCLEUS  
@kirtland.af.mil,  
call 46-4235.

Submission deadline  
9 a.m. the Friday before  
publication. Deadlines  
change for holidays.

Advertising deadlines  
Classified:  
Tuesday, noon, 892-9400,  
observerclass@attglobal.net

Display:  
Friday, 5 p.m., 892-9400,  
observerads@attglobal.net

Advertising  
and Production  
Robert Lambert  
advertising manager

Gina Martinez  
Margaret Fensterer  
production

Lana Johnson  
display advertising  
representative

Kristie Erdmann  
automobile display  
advertising representative

Susan Saunier  
accounting

Yvonne Korotky  
classified representative

The Kirtland AFB Nucleus is published by "The Observer," a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 377th Air Base Wing. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services. Contents of Nucleus are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, or "The Observer," of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit or merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

# CAREER FOCUS

## Family Support Center: *Our most important resource—our people*

BY MASTER SGT.  
DAVID HALVORSON

TEAM KIRTLAND  
career assistance advisor

If you read the mission statement of the Family Support Center you will see that it exists to “assist commanders in maintaining the health and welfare of military families and helping families adapt to the demands of military life.” A pretty broad statement—but what does it really mean? How do they accomplish this critical and sweeping mission?

Among the service branches, the Air Force has always been a leader in recognizing the relationship between a member’s ability to successfully complete the mission, and the quality of life that the Airman’s family experiences.

This keen awareness was the basis for launching the Family Support Center programs and over the years it has continued to grow in response to the needs of the personnel it serves. As a result, the center offers many varied programs and courses designed to promote a positive family environment.

Who does the center support? Active duty military members of all services, DOD civilians, Guard and Reserve members on active duty status, retired personnel and family members of all these groups are eligible to receive services. You do not have to

be married or have a family to use the center.

If you’re family members are just beginning their journey with the Air Force, you might be interested in attending “Military Spouse Basic Training.” Designed to acclimate and assist spouses new to military life, this program provides information on protocol, military etiquette, acronyms and support services to assist in adapting to the military lifestyle.

You may also want to consider looking into the “Heart Link Spouses Program,” which is designed to provide additional useful information to new spouses (five years or less) to the military.

Most of us have experienced the strain of a lengthy deployment, and the “Heart’s Apart Support Group Meeting” (held monthly) can help to ease the strain associated with these challenging times.

It’s open to anyone who has a deployed family member and craft activities are available for the children!

Speaking of family, if you’re interested in learning about baby care and financial issues, be sure to attend the “Bundles for Babies” class and receive a free baby gift pack.

If you’re anticipating a pending permanent change of station move, you may want to attend the monthly “CONUS Outbound Smooth Move



Master Sgt. David Halvorson

Brief,” designed to make that next move your easiest yet!

If you have questions about moving to your next assignment, this is a briefing you will not want to miss. Base representatives from finance management, Travel Management Office, legal, housing, military personnel, and Family Support will brief and answer questions regarding your move.

There’s even a “Smooth Move for Kid’s Workshop,” a new, interactive program designed to help minimize the impact of stress associated with the relocation process. The target group for this briefing is children ages 6-12.

“Budgeting 101” is offered to those interested in honing their budgeting skills, and for those experiencing financial difficulties, you can sign up for “Consumer Credit Counseling.” Here, a service representative will provide one-on-one counseling and develop an individualized plan of action to get you back on track.

Perhaps you’re nearing the twilight of your career and you’re beginning to contemplate the transition to retirement and private sector employment. If so, then you won’t want to miss attending the monthly “Transition Assistance Program” class, which assists retiring and separating service members, civilians and their families in making a smooth transition to retired life.

Among the many services offered though TAP is the “Resume Writing Workshop.” For adults interested in obtaining employment, this workshop will stress the importance of writing effective resumes.

One of the most well received classes available through the Family Support Center is the “Disability Transition Assistance Briefing.”

This is hosted by the Department of Veterans Affairs, which conducts a workshop to discuss the Disabled Veterans Vocational Rehabilitation Program, disability compensation, disability issues and reviews the Veterans Affairs Form 21-526, *Veteran’s Application for Compensation or Pension*.

If you have a service-connected injury or disability, this is one briefing you won’t want to miss.

There are many more classes and workshops offered to assist you as you manage the unique challenges of day-to-day Air Force life. A simple phone call—846-0741—is all it takes to set up an appointment.

You can also logon to the Kirtland FSC Web site at [www.kirtland.af.mil/Organizations/FamilySupport/index.htm](http://www.kirtland.af.mil/Organizations/FamilySupport/index.htm).

So call or logon today, and let the dedicated professionals of the Family Support Center help you.